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## BOOK REVIEWS

*Mental Conflicts and Misconduct.* By William Healy. Published by Little, Brown & Co., Boston. 1917. pp. xi, 330.

Dr. Healy, now Director of the Baker Foundation Juvenile Court, Boston, offers in this volume a straightforward and practical, rather than theoretical, account of a special type of juvenile delinquency, attributable to conflict in the mental life of the offender. Forty selected cases provide the illustrative material, of which the first case cited is typical: a girl with recurrent impulses to stealing which originate at the sight of, or in connection with imagery concerning, an older girl who had earlier provoked in her abnormal emotional (sexual) excitement. These impulses prove irresistible, though their anti-social character is fully recognized and though no positive pleasure is derived from giving way to them. Repression of the sexual tendencies seems to be purchased at the expense of repeated outbreaks in another direction. In other cases conflict arises in the mental mechanisms through the possession by the offender of unsuspected and unwelcome knowledge, as for example that he is of illegitimate birth.

Dr. Healy is professedly prejudiced against the typically Freudian bias in favor of explaining all conflict through repression of early sex experiences, because of the suspiciously aprioristic character of such analyses. Nevertheless he confesses himself "utterly surprised" and finds it "a constant source of wonderment" that so much delinquency of such varied character proves on examination to have a sexual origin. In other respects, too, notably perhaps in the matter of dream significance, Healy's book contributes support to Freudian contentions.

However, "mental analysis," as Dr. Healy, borrowing the term, describes his procedure, gains support through its very lack of pretension; in this respect contrasting sharply with the more esoteric and fantastic forms of psychoanalysis. One is refreshed to find the incontrovertible facts of case histories arranged so that they may be studied on their own merits—not as proponents for theories which sound scientific procedure would restrain us from formulating. In the meantime Dr. Healy is gathering immensely valuable material and achieving splendid practical results.

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*Cases on the Law of Property. Volume I. Personal Property.* By Harry A. Bigelow. (American Case Book Series.) Published by the West Publishing Co., St. Paul. 1917. pp. xx, 404.

There is no great departure in this book from the steps developed in Professor Gray's collection of cases; the loose ends of personal property law, which he first threw into a collection of cases, have no very definite beginning or middle, or end; what is not elsewhere dealt with is here included.

Comparison is inevitable, and eight years' teaching from Gray's book and the admiration of Gray consequent thereon are not enough to overcome the opinion that the present collection is in two respects definitely better for classroom purposes: in the interesting fact situations, and in the more complete rounding out of several—if not all—of the subdivisions dealt with by the two authors. An apparently greater examination of cases is shown in the new book by the